

REMARKS**I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

On March 2, 2004, the Applicants filed a response to an Office Action mailed October 2, 2003, and requested reconsideration. On 28 April 2004, the undersigned attorney conducted an interview with the examiner during which the Applicants explained that VEGF-C, including active fragments, has been expressed *in vivo* using multiple expression systems, as explained in detail in the March amendment. The Applicants are considering a declaration in support. In the meantime, the Applicants request entry of this additional amendment prior to reconsideration of the application.

II. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

On page 2 of the Office action, the Patent Office maintained its revised (second) restriction requirement and made it final, and on page 3, the Patent Office objected to claims 22, 26-29, 49, 57-58, and 70-71 for allegedly containing non-elected subject matter, i.e., subject matter reciting VEGF-D. The Applicants have amended the claims so as to be directed to the elected subject matter, without prejudice to pursuing the restricted subject matter in a divisional case.

III. ADDITIONAL REMARKS CONCERNING ENABLEMENT

The claims have been amended to provide additional structural and functional definition for the encoded VEGF-C polypeptides recited in the claims. For example, various independent claims were amended to recite (a) a full length prepro-VEGF-C sequence of 419 amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2; (b) a genus of analogs in which a limited number of residues are added, deleted, and replaced, but characteristic receptor stimulatory activity is retained; and (c) active fragments of (a) and (b). Support for these amendments are found at p. 5, line 24, to p. 7, line 30, and elsewhere throughout the application.

CONCLUSION

The applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration of the pending claims. The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the foregoing

amendments and remarks. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will move this case to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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